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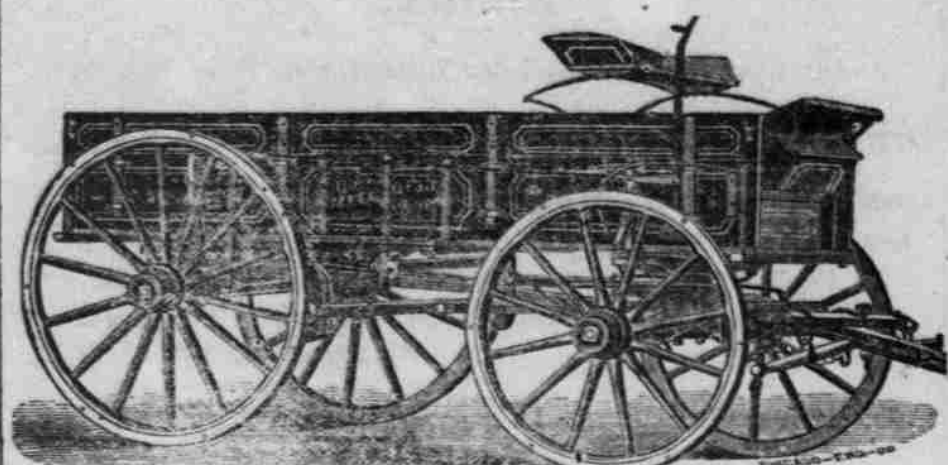
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BLUE EYES.

"What makes your eyes so blue, my dear?" The lover asked, in the spring of the year. "The color I caught in the dusky dell. Where the choicest forget-me-nots do dwell."

"What makes your eyes so blue, my wife?" The husband asked in the wintery night. "They show the hue of the ocean deep. Where your measureless love in my heart I keep."

"What makes your eyes so blue?" quite low, The father asked in the autumn's glow. "Because the pure love of our children dear Keeps them fresh and youthful from year to year."

"What makes your eyes so blue and bright?" The old man asked in the wintry night. "It is because they reflect the heaven above. Where we shall continue our earthly love."

—FRED A. JONES.

Old Pop Who Ate Fruit—Small Pen With a Big Heart—Nora's Way of Frying Up a Window—Restless Fidget.

I have been owned by a good many dogs in the course of my life, and I am not a little proud of the fact. They say it is a good sign in a man when he has dogs and cats take kindly to him. All dogs take kindly to me, and I look upon it as an endorsement of some merit in my character. The first desire of every well-balanced dog is to own a man. Without such a possession he is spurred by his fellows and despised by small boys.

All dogs know at once whether a stranger of their own race owns a man or not. Whether it is the hang of his ears and tail, or a general negligence about his personal appearance, or lack of confidence in his general bearing, I can not say, but certain it is that all well-fixed, or ill-fixed, dogs at once detect a manless brother how-wow. The tramp-dog recognizes his fellow tramp-dogs, and consorts with him.

There are dogs who are tramps by nature, who will never stick to a master, but such cases, I am happy to say, are very rare—more rare than even tramp-cats, who, one would think, from their natural love of warmth and comfort, would jump at any kind of a decent home. And yet I am personally acquainted with several tramp-cats, and very nice, decent cats, too.

Some men think they own dogs, and perhaps a few of them do, but as a general rule the dog owns the man. For my part, I would not care two straws for a dog I had to own. I prefer being owned, and glory in my servitude.

The first dog I remember who took possession of me was a black and white spaniel, which my father brought home when I was a boy. I selected me at once, out of six children, as its master, and it clung to me ever after. We christened him Pop. He was not a dog, however, but a rather groovy old dog, with a chronic growl, which meant nothing.

I have never seen another dog with that growl. He would growl and wag his tail at the same time. He growled when he was pleased, just as a cat purrs. He was a most intelligent dog, and understood every word I said to him. There was no need of any motion of the hands, or even of the mouth or eyes. It was unnecessary even to look at him to make him comprehend.

He used to be in a state of alarm if I would allow him to accompany me in my walks; but were I going to any place where I could not take him, I had only to say, "Pop, go home," and he would sink slowly back, looking round every now and then with the most piteous expression, in hope of seeing some sign of relenting on my part. Then, if I did relent, he would come tearing after me and whirl himself round and round, like a pin-wheel on the Fourth of July.

Pop was very fond of fruit, and would make excursions round the garden when the gooseberries were ripe and pick them off the bushes. In cherry time I used often to climb up the trees to pick the fruit (perhaps no boy ever did such a thing before), which I would throw down while Pop kept guard below. He never thought of touching one till I gave him permission, but when I said, "Those are for you, Pop," he would pounce on the bunch indicated like a cat on a mouse, and gobble it up immediately.

Pop used to do many wonderful things, I am certain, though I forget now what they were, for he reigned forty years ago. He stuck to me faithfully for many years, and I know of no one who has given me up, had he not been stolen one day in the crowded streets. I never saw the poor fellow again.

The next dog, I remember, who owned me was a King Charles spaniel, which was so small that it could stand on the palm of my hand. She took possession of me; so I had to buy her for two dollars and a half, which was a pretty good price for a dog in those days. Though her body was small, her heart was as big as a lion's. She was afraid of nothing, and would have attacked an ironclad if it had come in her way.

One day I saw her run after and furiously assail a huge Newfoundland dog, big enough to swallow her whole like an oyster. As soon as the big dog became aware that he was attacked, he turned round his head, gave one look at the tiny aggressor, and then, with the magnanimity peculiar to dogs, walked on without taking any further notice.

Another time I took her out to walk across the fields to a place where they were building a railway bridge over a dike or ditch about forty feet wide. The roadway of the bridge was not completed, but a single beam of timber ran from the top of one bank to the other.

Over this I crossed, but my little dog Fan did not notice it. When she saw me at the other side, she scampered down to the water's edge, and after sniffing at it once or twice, plunged in and swam after me.

The middle of the stream was filled with weeds, and in these she became so entangled that it seemed to me she must inevitably drown. I had just made up my mind to jump in after her—for I could no more have seen her than a human being perished when she managed to break loose and swim shoreward.

out of the water she presented a most woful appearance, her long silky hair clinging to her slender body, her head and tail drooping, and her back all drawn up with the cold. I thought she would surely die, or at least forever after lose her courage.

We had two and a half miles to walk before reaching any house, and I at first thought of carrying her in my arms, but then I made up my mind it would be better to keep her in motion. So we hurried on as fast as we could till we reached a tavern, and there some warm milk and water and a comfortable fire soon made her all right. A few days after, while pursuing a bird, she came to another ditch, but without a moment's hesitation, in she plunged and swam across. To my delight I found she had not lost one particle of her courage.

When I left that part of the country, Fan and I had to part. But I hunted up a good, faithful man, and gave him to her, and I am sure she treated him well. He only behaved himself properly, for she was a very kind little dog.

The next dog that owned me was a Scotch collie or shepherd's dog. How I came into her possession I can not remember, but she owned me for nearly two years. I was then living at a place on the Hudson, a rather retired spot, a little way from the high road. One day, when I was away from home, a peddler walked into the kitchen, and seating himself at a table, demanded something to eat. My wife told him she had nothing for him, and requested him to leave. He then grew insolent, and said he should remain as long as he pleased. My wife then told him if he did not go she would call the dog.

"Oh!" he replied, smilingly, "call your dog. I'm not afraid of dogs." My wife went to the door, and called: "Nora! Nora!"

The dog came bounding in. "Here, Nora, turn this man out!" Without a bark or a growl (Scotch collies never say much), Nora flew at the peddler's throat, and tumbled him over in the dust, for he had scrambled to the door.

I do not know what would have become of the rascal had not my wife called the dog off. As it was, the peddler picked up his pack and stick, and started down the road as fast as his legs would carry him. One day we were attracted by a furious and contumacious barking in a field adjoining my place, and, on going to the spot, we found Nora mounting guard in front of a woodchuck's burrow, to which the old woodchuck was trying to retreat.

The sagacious dog evidently knew that the safest plan to capture the game was to cut off his communication with his citadel, and call for help, so she stood there for an hour, barking, till we came. Nothing would induce her to quit the post, which she felt was the key to the situation, till we had secured the rodent, and then her ecstasy was unbounded. She capered and grinned and laughed, and said, as plain as dog could say:

"I did it. Wasn't I smart?" Nora was a great excursionist; it was her only fault. I think she went to the different farm-houses round about in search of the companionship of sheep. On my farm I had only some ducks and chickens and a pig. And what are pigs and poultry to the soul of a dog accustomed to command a legion of animals, curly-horned sheep on a wild Scotch moor?

Disapproving of Nora's roving habits (I finally tied her up in a loft over a tool-house, and also looked her in. The next morning when I went to feed her, she was gone. She had gnawed the rope in two, opened the window, and jumped about fifteen feet to the ground. The gnawing and jumping, through acts of extraordinary audacity, were easily understood. But to open the window, she must have thoroughly studied the subject, and put her nose to extreme physical pain in forcing it. Nora disappeared one day, and never came back. I felt satisfied she must have been forcibly detained, probably by some farmer who had sheep and knew her value.

The next I find on my list of canine proprietors is a little half-and-half Scotch terrier and poodle. I first met her in a drug store in Orange, N. J., on a damp, drizzling, miserable night. I discovered her, wet and muddy and miserable as the night itself, cowering in one corner of the store. The drug-gist did not know who she was or where she came from. I addressed a few casual remarks to her on the state of the weather and her own personal appearance. She took possession of me at once. When I left the store she followed me home. I invited her in and gave her a good supper, which she seemed to enjoy heartily.

After that her kindness and affection knew no bounds. She was never happy, save in my society; and when I left the house for any length of time, which I generally had to do surreptitiously, she would rummage all over the establishment, from garret to cellar, exploring even the most unlikely places, apparently thinking I might be concealed under washbasins, on shelves, behind trunks, anywhere, everywhere.

When at last she reached the sad conviction that I had really left the premises, she would hunt up some article of dress belonging to me, carry it to my sanctum, scramble on to a table with it in her mouth, and laying her head down upon it, there wait till I come home. Poor little Fidget! How I loved that little dog!

We had christened her Fidget because she was such a restless little thing. There never was such a fly-about in the world. Now she would jump on a chair and bark out of the window at nothing; then she would make a dash at the cat, and roll her over and over, till she got in a rage and acted ugly, then Fidget would give a sharp bark and look at me fixedly for a few seconds, pretending that she had never thought about the cat at all. If returned her glance she would begin to wag her tail, although, by-the-way, it was difficult to tell which was the right end of her, unless she was running, and then you only knew because you were certain that she would never run backwards.

"Fifty Thousand Years Hence"—Professor of University of Timbuctoo—"You can perceive, gentlemen, that we are descended from this extinct animal called man, a half-developed ape, whose tail was not grown."—Tim-B.

"Mr. Danvair consults his dentist."—"Exercising pain in your teeth, say?" inquired the practitioner. "Pain?"—"How often does it come?"—"Every five minutes!"—"And"

THE COST OF APRONS.

Interesting Facts Supplied by An Industrious Young Woman.

A reporter who is luxuriating in his boarding house with a broken ankle was allowed to sit beside the sewing machine the other day by way of pastime. The instrument is run by the landlady's daughter, not so much for her own amusement as to augment the receipts of the house. As soon as the breakfast dishes are put away, say, eight o'clock p. m., she sits down to her work and does not leave it until 5:30 p. m., with the exception of a half hour for luncheon. She is employed by a firm who make a specialty of white aprons for children. Aprons cut, and with the trimming by the piece, are sent to her in quantity. The material used is a thin slinky lawn, which costs the manufacturer five cents a yard, double width, by the case, and a cotton edging at 1 cent a yard. Each apron requires somewhat less than a yard of lawn, including the straps, and 24 yards of edging. The thread used is No. 50 cotton, each spool containing 20 yards. This spool, with the addition of another which winds 5 "bobbing," makes 110,400 stitches of 16 to the inch. There are 9,824 stitches covering the 64 inches of sewing required in each apron, which has to pass under the needle bar 48 times. In making the tucks and hems 16 foldings are required before sewing. The outer layer of a No. 90 spool of thread has 148 winds upon it, and the thread is 1/64 of an inch in diameter. On the innermost layer there are 83 winds, and there are 90 layers in the spool. The thread is capable of sustaining a weight of 20 ounces.

If the machine does not "net up," but "works to a charm," as the operator expresses it, she can finish 9 aprons daily, for which she receives 20 cents. She returns them to her employers in lots of 6 dozens, and pays the express charges of 15 cents from her own pocket. The manufacturer sells them just as he receives them to the jobber, who employs other operatives to make the necessary buttonholes and sew on the buttons. They then pass into the hands of the retailer, who sells them to the public at the rate of \$2 a dozen.

It does not require any very abstruse mathematical calculation to arrive at the cost of each apron. In very round numbers it is:

Lawn, 50¢
Edging, 10¢
Thread and express, 20¢
Total, 80¢

Add to this the cost of buttons and button-holes at two cents and you get the figures. When it is said that the house which employs the landlady's daughter has in its employ under its own roof over 200 operatives who work on machines run by steam power, and each capable of turning out nearly two dozen aprons each day, and has nearly as many more operatives who have their work sent to them at their homes, which are in all the towns and hamlets lying in a radius of fifty miles of that city, some idea is conveyed of the total number of dozens turned out, and when it is taken into consideration that the cost of the apron is \$2 a dozen, and that they retail for \$5 it is but fair to surmise that there is a "beddle broil" somewhere, of which it may be the sewing machine operative get her fair share.

At any rate, those facts and figures, evolved while the reporter's bones were knitting and the landlady's daughter was sewing, are respectfully submitted.—N. Y. Sun.

Killing White Grubs.

The larva of the May beetle, usually called the white grub, is the insect which most often eats the young potato, causing the scab or scaly appearance of the matured tubers. This larva lives in the soil three years, and the best means of eradicating the pest is to throw out the soil from the rotation and turn in hogs to root out the pest. In relation to destroying insect pests generally, the application of salt must be excessive, so much so as to injure crops. Lime has no influence on soil insects unless applied in immoderate quantities, and even then there is no definite conclusion that lime will destroy.—Farm, Field and Stockman.

OCULAR ADVICE.

How the Human Eye May Be Kept in Serviceable Condition.

Do not walk with your eyes on the ground; the gravel is apt to wear the sight off.

Never get up in the morning until you have first opened your eyes, if it takes you until noon.

Many a young man has a young woman in his eye, who will eventually impair his sight the remainder of his life.

Never throw your eyes suddenly into the hard pavement; you are likely to cripple them.

Do not try to look too far into the depths of the eyes of the young lady; it is certain to make you near-sighted.

When people tell you they see mischief in your eyes, you should go to an oculist and have it removed.

In keeping one eye on your neighbor, you should frequently change the eye.

I know a young man who permanently injured his eyes by trying to see the bald spot coming on top of his head.

SMART SCHOLAR.

Some Remarkable Information by Public School Pupils.

The Algonquins are mountain adepts.

The Rocky Mountains, a western side of Philadelphia. The first conclusions in Philadelphia.

A circle is a round stry, a hole in the middle. The principal products of the United States is earthquakes and volcanoes. Climate lasts all the time, weather only a few days.

In Austria the principal gathering austrian feathers. Ireland is called the Emerald because it is so beautiful and green.

The imports of a country things that are paid for the things that are not. Queen Isabella, of Spain, sold watch and chain and other miller that Columbus could discover America.

The Indians pursued their by hiding in the bushes and the Gorilla warfare was where men on gorillas.

Alfred the Great reigned 879 years. He was distinguished for letting loose black-wheat cakes burn and the scolded him.

Lord James Gordon Bennett is called the Gordon riots. The middle ages come in both antiquity and posterity.

Luther introduced Christianity to England a good many thousand years ago. His birthday was November 1583. He was once a pope. He lived at the time of the rebellion on worms.

Socrates destroyed some statues and had to drink shankoo. "Bracebridge Hall" was written by Henry Irving.

Shakespeare translated the Scriptures and it was called St. James because I did it. Chaucer was succeeded by H. Wads worth Longfellow, an American writer. His writings were chiefly prose, and nearly one hundred years elapsed.

A sort of sadness kind of shone Bryant's poems. Holmes is a very profitable and amusing writer.

The Constitution of the United States is that part of the book at the other end that nobody reads. Congress is divided into civilized, half-civilized and savage.

The stomach is a small pear-shaped bone situated in the body. We have an upper and lower skin. The lower skin moves all the time, the upper skin moves when we do.

The growth of a tooth begins in the back of the mouth and extends to the stomach. The weight of the earth is found by comparing a mass of known lead with that of a mass of unknown lead.—Mark Twain, in Century.

WEIGHT OF A SIGNATURE.

A Wonderful Pair of Scales That Weighs the Hairs On a Man's Head.

In a Broadway store, which is a branch of a big out-of-door scale factory, are more different kinds of scales than most people imagine were ever made. There are specimens of every grade of weighing machines, from the big truck scales that can weigh a railroad car full of pig lead down to a tiny balance so fine that it is kept in a glass case which could be carried in one's pocket. The smallest scales of all are made for